

## Methodology: Yemen Conflict Sensitivity Platform’s Monitoring Framework

### Objectives

The Yemen Conflict Sensitivity Platform’s (the Platform) monitoring framework charts the interaction between conflict dynamics and aid in Yemen. Its purpose is to support the international community’s ability to navigate this interaction as it plans and delivers aid, so that collectively we do no harm and where possible we make a positive contribution towards peace. As such, the framework should help the aid community think through the following questions:

1. What conflict factors impact effect aid delivery, and how can we plan for them?
2. What impact does/can aid have on conflict dynamics, and how can we plan for them?

The reports are released monthly and incorporate a longer-term trend perspective on a quarterly basis. On a quarterly basis they will then be used for reflection by both donors and aid delivery agencies as to how aid can be adapted to be more effective and to have a positive peace impact.

Initially, the framework has a narrow focus on COVID-19 (C-19), selecting indicators that help us understand how C-19 influences conflict dynamics (and vice versa). As C-19 becomes less of a pressing concern, the Platform will update the monitoring framework to track a wider range of indicators.

### Indicators

The monitoring framework will initially track four key conflict dynamics, and the impact of aid on them. As noted, immediately the framework will try and understand only the impact of C-19, and aid related to C-19, on these dynamics. Over time this will be expanded to other aid issues.

1. De-facto authorities (Dfa) vs. Internationally-recognised government (IRG)	2. Internationally-recognised government (IRG) vs. Southern Transitional Council (STC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition between the Dfa and IRG to bolster their political, social, political, and military control through the aid (initially C-19).</li> <li>• Actions on aid (initially C-19) that enhance cooperation and trust-building at the political level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves to progress Southern Independence through aid (initially C-19).</li> <li>• Changes in working relations between the IRG and STC (positive and negative).</li> <li>• Implications on the Dfa-IRG conflict and its mediation.</li> </ul>
3. Central authority vs. local authorities	4. Local community and tribal conflict
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to relative authority and public support of central and local government.</li> <li>• Changes in working relations between the two.</li> <li>• Mostly focused on IRG-aligned areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of aid (initially C-19) on community tensions and potential for localised violence.</li> <li>• Applies to both Dfa and IRG-aligned areas.</li> </ul>

## Monitoring process

The **monitoring framework** is implemented through the following steps:

1. Open source data identification: The monitoring team maintains a catalogue of open source data points in English and Arabic, encompassing traditional media, social media, and official websites. This catalogue is reviewed and updated monthly. In addition, the monitoring team scans for relevant analytical and aid reports on Yemen.
2. Daily scan and categorisation: The monitoring team scans the data points (and analytical/aid reports) against a set of pre-determined indicators (below). Each 'match' with an indicator is logged in a data matrix, where it is labelled as either an 'occurrence' (e.g. a new C-19 initiative), 'frequency' (e.g. an additional report on an existing C-19 initiative already logged), or 'analysis' (e.g. summary of trends related to C-19 initiatives).
3. Validation of labelling: One of the key challenges for the monitoring team is to ensure proper labelling of logged data, for example to ensure that the same event is not counted more than once due to multiple reports. The research team reviews and validates the data matrix at the end of each month to ensure that all entries are categorised and summarised correctly.
4. Verification 1 – key informants: The monitoring team undertakes two forms of verification of (a) select data entries (e.g. a new C-19 initiative) and (b) interpretation of the data entries (e.g. are we seeing a trend in types of C-19 initiatives?). It is important to note that not all data entries can be verified due to the number gathered (to date between 100-200 per month period), and it is up to the monitoring team to make informed judgements as to which entries and interpretations require verification.
5. Verification 2 – DAG and TWG participants: The monitoring team also plans to check data entries and interpretations with donors and delivery agencies monthly, and to fill missing gaps in the data gathered. This process has not yet started, and the monitoring team is testing what donors and delivery agencies can contribute.
6. Data summary: Following the 2-step verification, a monitoring team member creates a 'Matrix and Report Summary', which summarises all occurrences, the frequency of reporting of these occurrences, and analyses within the reporting period. The summary includes examples of media that can be used to better convey information.
7. Monitoring report: At the end of the month, the monitoring team lead drafts a report summarising the monitoring results against the pre-agreed indicators (below). This report is issued within two weeks of the end of the reporting month and a secure, password-protected version is shared with the Platform's Donor Advisory Group (DAG) and Technical Working Group (TWG). Each quarter, the monitoring report will provide a longer-term analysis of trends and suggested considerations for the DAG and TWG.
8. Using the results: Findings and trends identified in the monthly monitoring reports are shared with the DAG and TWG as part of their quarterly meetings. Monthly briefings on the findings are also offered depending on interest from donor and aid agencies. The Platform also engages donors and aid agencies for feedback on the report structure and content, as well as to identify any opportunities that might emerge from the monitoring findings, such as dialogue processes, cooperative measures, or precautionary actions.

## Indicators

The following indicators were established specifically for tracking C-19 against a baseline from April 2020.<sup>1</sup> These indicators will be updated as Yemen moves beyond the C-19 emergency to focus on wider aid.

Key dynamics	Indicator	Sub-questions
<b>1. Political competition and armed violence</b>	1.1 Impact on political competition	1.1.1 Who is taking responsibility for managing C-19 and what are their political motivations?
		1.1.2 What are authorities saying about who is responsible for managing C-19?
		1.1.3 What cooperation and dialogue is happening, who is involved, and what incentives exist?
	1.2 Impact on levels of armed violence	1.2.1 Is C-19 resulting in violence or being used as an opportunity to undertake military action?
		1.2.2 Is C-19 being used as an opportunity to reinforce military capacity?
		1.2.3 What de-escalatory initiatives are taking place, and what incentives are there for de-escalation?
<b>2. Information transparency and messaging</b>	2.1 Infection reporting	2.1.1 What evidence is there of suppression of C-19 cases, and what is the reason?
		2.1.2 How willing are conflict parties to cooperate with international aid agencies?
		2.1.3 What type of information exchange is occurring across divides, and what incentives exist?
	2.2 Public messaging	2.2.1 What public messages are being delivered and by who?
		2.2.2 Who is being blamed as responsible for C-19 by the conflict parties?
		2.2.3 What joint messaging is occurring across divides, and what incentives exist?
<b>3. Community trust and responsiveness</b>	3.1. Trust in authorities	3.1.1 Who do Yemenis turn to regarding C-19?
		3.1.2 How are public narratives about authorities changing (blame and praise)?
		3.1.3 How are public narratives towards other groups changing (blame and praise)?
	3.2 Responsiveness to C-19 measures	3.2.1 How are Yemenis responding to social distancing measures?
		3.2.2 What role are tribal, religious, and cultural leaders playing in gathering support?
		3.2.3 What encourages response and what undermines response?
<b>4. Structural stability, humanitarian needs and aid infrastructure</b>	4.1 State and community stability	4.1.1 What changes have there been in the civil-military balance?
		4.1.2 What changes have there been to institutional capacity and the economy?
		4.1.3 What changes are there in levels and types of vulnerability?
	4.2 Aid context	4.2.1 What changes are there to funding practice and strategies?
		4.2.2 What changes are there to the delivery environment?
		4.2.3 Any changes in public attitudes toward aid agencies?

<sup>1</sup> Yemen Conflict Sensitivity Platform, 'Conflict Sensitivity Considerations for COVID-19 in Yemen,' April 2020.